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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING FOR A SHORT-DURATION COUNTRY PROGRAMME**

Algeria

This document contains a recommendation for funding, from regular resources and other resources, for the one-year country programme of Algeria that supports activities where the country programme is under preparation. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the amount of $1,085,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $800,000 from other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for 2001.

* E/ICEF/2000/14.

** The figures provided in this document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1999. They will be contained in the summary of recommendations for regular resources and other resources programmes (E/ICEF/2000/P/L.27).

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Basic data (1999 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, 0-17 years)	13.4
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	40
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	35
Underweight (% moderate and severe, 1995)	14
MMR (per 100,000 live births)	220
Literacy (% male/female, 1995)	71/45
Primary school enrolment (% male/female)	91/84
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%, 1995)	84
Access to safe water (%, 1995)	91
Systematic vaccinations funded by Government (EPI) (%)	100
GNP per capita (US dollars)	1,550

One-year-olds fully immunized against:

tuberculosis	95 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus	80 per cent
measles	75 per cent
poliomyelitis	80 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against tetanus: 52 per cent

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. Algeria has undergone significant political and socio-economic developments since 1998. The approach taken by the new President of the Republic, elected in 1999, sets the return of peace and stability as an essential priority. As a result of the political programme based on civil concord and national reconciliation, thousands of insurgents have laid down their weapons and have been pardoned or amnestied. The violence has decreased sharply, but the security situation, although improving, remains worrying. Many civilians, including women and children, are still subjected to violence, especially in rural areas.

2. This state of affairs is detrimental to Algeria's determined efforts in the sphere of economic and social reform. There has been a clear acceleration of the process of full incorporation in the market economy. However, Algeria's economy is still heavily dependent on oil revenues. It meets 60-70 per cent of its food needs from imports. According to governmental statistics, poverty affects 14 per cent of the population, i.e. almost six million people, half of them rural dwellers. The erosion of personal purchasing power is worsening (down by 15 per cent in the past two years). Unemployment remains high and affects 29 per cent of the active population and almost 55 per cent of persons aged 20 to 24.

3. No cases of polio have been reported since 1998. The incidence of measles fell from 19,573 cases in 1997 to 2,500 in 1999. Nevertheless, the health situation remains worrying: for example, the immunization coverage has regressed in the past few years.

4. School drop-outs are a big problem. Although the enrolment rate is above 90 per cent, the school system is inefficient: the drop-out rate is seven per cent for the 6-12 age group and 19 per cent for the 6-16 group. More than 500 schools have been destroyed, mainly in rural areas, but the children of these schools have been able to continue their education in other establishments. The Government has also begun to rebuild the destroyed schools. Women account for 65 per cent of adult illiterates.

5. The protection of children traumatized by the violence, numbered in the tens of thousands, is a permanent concern of the Government and civil society. Many psychological-care and material measures have been carried out by State institutions and civil associations, but without much coordination. In order to correct this situation the Government is preparing a national plan for care of children affected by the violence. Out of a total population of 20 million, about 1 100,000 disabled persons were counted in 1998, including 132,000 of school age. The number of children abandoned in hospital precincts is estimated at over 1,000 a year.

PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1998-2000

6. The 1998-2000 programme was designed to improve the well-being of children and women, especially with regard to health, education and protection. It was aimed at the most disadvantaged regions - the south and the high plateaus, with a total of 28 wilayate (departments). Under the health programme UNICEF contributed in 1998 and 1999 to the organization of two polio vaccination campaigns in these wilayate, where the average rate of polio vaccination coverage is 70 per cent, to the strengthening of the national epidemiological monitoring system, and to the improvement of the operational capacities of 1,276 doctors and paramedics in the field of maternal and child health. Two national surveys of nutrition and maternal mortality, carried out by the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) with UNICEF support, are being finalized.

7. UNICEF has supported the Government in its efforts to improve the quality of education, especially by incorporating global education in the teaching methods. To this end UNICEF supplied teaching and computer materials and equipment and organized training seminars for teachers from 25 primary schools, for the benefit of 10,000 pupils. UNICEF also contributed to the equipment of 100 school canteens in poor areas, benefiting 10,000 children, to the training of school doctors, basic education inspectors, and canteen managers, and to the production of management and food hygiene handbooks. Where literacy is concerned, 533 instructors received training, and 100 functional literacy classes were set up, catering for 3,000 persons in 10 wilayate.

8. UNICEF contributed to the establishment of a project on the psychological care of children victims of the violence by furnishing significant technical and material support. For example, 80 psychiatrists and psychologists, including 10 senior trainers, were trained in the techniques of caring for traumatized children, and they in turn trained almost a thousand teachers and inspectors. This project also helped to boost the national capacity to care for traumatized children by acquisition of 525 psychological tests, logistical support and psychological monitoring of children, and establishment of a trauma

documentation, information and training centre in INSP. A survey of the scope and impact of trauma among children was carried out.

8. UNICEF supplied specialized classroom equipment for sight impaired and mentally disabled children attending public primary schools. This pilot experiment contributed to the adoption of a national programme for the integration of disabled children. UNICEF also contributed to the production of information and awareness-raising materials on the prevention of accidents in the home. In addition, the programme strengthened the clinical and educational capacities of a day hospital for autistic and psychotic children. Two studies were produced (on child abuse and child labour) with a view to tackling the new problems confronting society.

10. UNICEF encouraged thinking and organized debates on the universal rights of children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child through inter alia the production of films, the mounting of a peripatetic photographic exhibition, the production and dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) materials, including materials in braille, the training of technical staff, and the organization of colloquiums attended by representatives of governmental institutions, NGOs and universities, and by social workers.

11. A pilot project on community development was established in collaboration with UNDP and UNFPA in the Timimoun region, wilaya of Adrar, in the far south of the country. The UNICEF contribution is aimed in particular at the promotion of girls' education.

Lessons learned from recent cooperation

12. Project management in the field was effected sectorally and vertically owing to poor coordination among the institutions involved. If the projects are to achieve a high implementation rate the coordination among the different actors must be strengthened by means of cross-sectoral management.

13. Algerian society has experienced many different problems and changes. But the cooperation programme has not always kept pace with these changes. It became apparent during this period of cooperation that the programme should be reoriented in such a way as to respond better to the priority needs of children and women and fall into step with the evolution of the situation. This was why the child protection project was reviewed and adjusted in 1998. Priority was given to the care of children traumatized by the violence and to the increased protection of children living in physical or mental distress.

14. The office's capacity was weakened by the discontinuation of the monitoring and evaluation programme (1997), insufficient staff, and a precarious security situation, which severely restricted field visits. In order to respond to this situation it was found necessary to strengthen the means of programme monitoring and evaluation. As a result, two programme administrators were recruited to established posts, and an additional post of programme administrator was created in 1999. A monitoring and evaluation framework was also put in place.

15. Priority is still being given to improving the institutional machinery for monitoring and evaluating the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on

the Rights of the Child and its Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women. For a long time the situation in the country did not allow best use to be made of the data collection machinery. That is changing in today's situation.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME OF COOPERATION, 2001

Estimated annual expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Total
Regular resources	
Health	300
Education	260
Child protection	230
Advocacy and social communication	170
Cross-sectoral costs	125
Subtotal	1 085
Other resources	
Health	200
Education	200
Child protection	400
Subtotal	800
Total	1 885

Preparation of the country programme

16. This new programme was prepared in close collaboration with the Government and with other United Nations agencies. UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA agreed with each other, and with the Government, to extend for one year (2001) the cycle of their respective programmes of cooperation. This decision is intended to allow the three agencies to prepare themselves better to support the Government in its new priorities and structural reforms. This extra year will also make it possible to consolidate what has been achieved in the present cooperation cycle (1998-2000), which was initially delayed owing to the difficult socio-political environment.

Goals and objectives of the country programme

17. The principal goals and objectives of the 1998-2000 country programme will be maintained. It will thus be aimed at improving the well-being of children and women in Algeria through an approach focused mainly on the consolidation of what has been achieved in health, education and social protection.

Programme strategy

18. The principal strategies will be required for with special emphasis on strengthening the cross-sectoral approach, on the monitoring and evaluation system, and on cooperation and complementarity among United Nations agencies. The year 2001 will be used for the detailed preparation of the next cooperation cycle (2002-2006) on the basis of the data produced by the various surveys and studies and of the lessons drawn from the evaluation of the current programme and cycle, giving particular consideration to the reforms introduced by the Government.

19. Health. Through the four provinces of the health programme (immunization programme, campaign against diarrhoeal diseases, maternal and child health, and acute respiratory infections (ARI)), UNICEF will continue to support the Government in its efforts to improve the rate of immunization coverage, eradicate measles and neonatal tetanus, eradicate polio, reduce neonatal mortality and mortality due to ARIs and diarrhoeas, and curb maternal mortality and malnutrition. A special intervention effort will be made in the five areas which will be identified on completion of the multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) currently being carried out. In order to improve the monitoring and evaluation capacity and the capacity to respond rapidly to specific situations UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO, will contribute to the improvement of the national health information system. UNICEF and WHO will support the Government in the introduction of the approach aimed at integrated treatment of childhood diseases, with a view to improving the efficiency of the health system.

20. Education. UNICEF will back the Government in its reform of the education system and in its efforts to reduce school drop-out rates, regional disparities and, depending on the type, illiteracy, mainly among women and girls, and to upgrade the quality of education. Within this framework, a national survey of the causes of drop-outs will be conducted, the concepts of global education will be extended to an additional 40 pilot schools in two poor and deprived wilayate (Adrar (far south) and Illizi (Ahaggar)) and the development of literacy activities with women and girls will be continued in the regions of the far south (Adrar, Ouargla, and Béchar). However, more thought will be given to the literacy project with a view to reconsideration of UNICEF activities in this field.

21. Child protection. This programme has two initial projects - disabled children, and children without families - which will be supplemented by the project on the care of traumatized children victims of the violence, set up in response to an emergency situation. The goal of this programme is to improve the physical and mental conditions of the lives of children needing special protection. To this end, the support for the care of children traumatized by the violence will be strengthened by means of technical and material inputs. The results obtained and the conclusions drawn from the child protection surveys carried out in 2000 will facilitate a better definition of the goals of the next cooperation cycle with a view to meeting the new needs of Algeria's children. In addition, UNICEF will continue to support the development of the national integrated classes programme by contributing to the opening of 10 new classrooms for mentally disabled and sight-impaired children. It will also contribute to